



CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA

The **Recreation Commission** met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at: 7:10 p.m.

The following were present:

Vice Chair Clark Rinehart
Dr. Stephanie Kondy
Jorge Santin

Absent:

Chairman John Shapiro
Beth Tilman

Also present:

Golf and Recreation Director Omar Luna
Board Secretary Elora Sakal

2) Approval of Minutes

Minutes of October 11, 2011 meeting were approved **as written**.

Board member Kondy moved to approve the minutes. Board member Santin seconded the motion which was carried unanimously on voice vote.

3) Old Business:

a) Park Space Availability

Board member Santin stated that this item has been discussed many times before but he wanted to know if anything new has occurred.

Recreation Director Luna explained that the park he is trying to target at the moment is the Miami Springs Middle School. Funding will be needed to re-do the field completely with such things as irrigation. He noted that the cost for this project would be approximately \$50,000 to \$80,000. The biggest challenge is finding the funds to begin the project.

Recreation Director Luna said that the School Board is in favor of the project but they do not have any funds to contribute. The School Board mentioned that they would continue use the field regularly with their Physical Education classes during the week which would create additional maintenance. He reiterated that the biggest challenge will be finding the funds to do this project.

Board member Santin asked if there was an estimate in reference to the maintenance and Recreation Director Luna replied that if he was to receive the funding for the project then he would work with Golf Superintendent Sandy Pell regarding such things as fertilizing, top dressing, and finding out what the costs would be to maintain the field.

Board member Kondy asked if the City has explored any grants that may be available and Recreation Director Luna responded that he cannot speak on behalf of Grant Writer Carol Foster but he knows that she is always looking for grants and she sends him e-mails all the time. He said that he has applied for many grants but they have been denied quite often.

Board member Kondy stated that since the park belongs to the School Board, there may be some additional resources through education.

Recreation Director Luna explained that another challenge is that because the park is on school ground property the School Board would have to push the grant.

Vice Chair Rinehart said that installing turf would be very costly but it would eliminate the maintenance issue.

Recreation Director Luna commented that Council has always been conscious and made it aware that though it is not likely, the School Board at any given time could take the field away from the City.

Board member Santin mentioned that another park area such as Springview Elementary may draw some issues with the lack of restrooms while the Middle School would not be an issue with restrooms since there is one across the street at Stafford Park.

Recreation Director Luna noted that there is a concern with parking at Springview Elementary and therefore they are really hoping to be able to work with the park at Miami Springs Middle School because there is a parking area next to the park and a restroom.

Board member Santin questioned if some schools would allow use of the school restrooms and Recreation Director Luna replied that some schools do allow the use of school restrooms.

b) Park on the Corner of Poinciana and Ludlam Drive

Recreation Director Luna explained that the area is called a park, but is really not considered a park. Miami-Dade County owns the property and Public Works provides daily maintenance such as picking up trash and litter. He said that other activities at this park would have to be inquired through the Police Department.

Board member Kondy asked about the park on Royal Poinciana and Albatross and Recreation Director Luna responded that there was a point in time when the City wanted to make that area a dog park but the residents did not want a dog park in that location. He stated that he has a few long term ideas for projects such as passive parks that would have picnic tables and a walking path. There are some issues that need to be addressed at the parks that are used daily and once they are addressed then there could be the possibility of expanding those areas.

c) Status on The Wall of Fame in the Community Center

Recreation Director Luna commented that he does not know what the status is on the Wall of Fame in the Community Center.

Vice Chair Rinehart asked if any of the board members knew anything regarding the Wall of Fame and Board member Santin replied that he does not know anything and that the initiative was made by former Mayor Billy Bain.

Board member Santin asked if Recreation Director Luna could ask the City Council and Recreation Director Luna replied that he will ask Council what the status is regarding the Wall of Fame.

d) Status on Drainage Problem on Stafford Park

Vice Chair Rinehart said that he noticed that the Tot Lot was elevated at Stafford Park and it looked very nice.

Recreation Director Luna stated that the Tot Lot had to be elevated due to the issue with the drainage at Stafford Park. He noted that he was able to review old city plans and realized that Stafford Park is the lowest area in the City. The street sits approximately six feet higher than the park so the water percolates into the park.

Recreation Director Luna explained that he spoke with former Public Works Director Robert Williams about fixing the drainage and they came to the conclusion that something could be attempted internally, but it probably will not solve the issue and it would be costly.

Discussion ensued regarding ideas on what could be done to fix Stafford Park's drainage issues.

Board member Kondy asked if Recreation Director Luna had thought using a pumping system to pump out the water and Recreation Director Luna responded that he had thought of using a pumping system since Public Works had pumped out the water once and it worked well.

4) New Business:

a) Equipment and Improvements to Existing Parks

Board member Santin stated that he is sure that Recreation Director Luna has a wish list and is more in tune to what improvements are really needed and he asked if he could share the list with the board members.

Recreation Director Luna commented that he recently removed the bleachers at Prince Field. A work order is usually made every year to repair it but it was in such poor condition that it needed to be removed completely. He said that he hopes to replace the bleacher before the football season starts.

Recreation Director Luna reported that the playground on Prince Field was re-mulched. Clay and safety bases were added to the ball fields. He noted that the floors at the Community Center were resurfaced. The Dog Park was divided into two sections for large dogs and smaller dogs. New tables and chairs were placed at the Dog Park. He said that the Dog Park is being sprayed for fleas and ticks approximately every four to six weeks or on an as needed basis when they receive a complaint.

Recreation Director Luna explained that it is difficult to keep the Dog Park free of fleas and ticks because some owners are bringing their dogs that have fleas or ticks and then the park is infested and needs to be sprayed. The owners need to ensure that their animals are being treated properly before coming to the park so that other animals are not affected.

Recreation Director Luna commented that there is no lighting on the south side of the pool deck and this is one item that is on his wish list. There used to be lighting that would sit on the wall on the old Recreation Center. He said that there are dark spots in the pool and this is a safety issue. There are guards where the dark spots are to ensure safety.

Recreation Director Luna stated that another item on his wish list is replacing water fountains at the parks because they are in poor condition and water barely comes out of them. He would also like to replace the heater for the pool. It is very outdated and should have been replaced but it is luckily still working and it would cost approximately \$40,000 to replace the heater.

Recreation Director Luna reported that another item on his wish list is to replace some of the irrigation on the ball fields. Some of the irrigation does not reach certain areas so it is being watered by hand which is time-consuming and it would cost approximately \$15,000. He hopes to eventually replace the perimeter fence at Prince Field and it would cost approximately \$30,000.

Recreation Director Luna explained that the Community Center Pool needs to be marcited and it is a big issue that should have been done last year according to the industry standard. It will cost approximately \$50,000 to marcite the pool. He continued with his wish list commenting that replacing the vita course at Stafford Park would cost approximately \$70,000.

Recreation Director Luna reported the cost of items that he has on his wish list for the upcoming years included, \$80,000 for safe structures on the bleachers at all parks, approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000 for a new bleacher at Stafford Park, and possibly \$160,000 for vita course lights at Stafford Park.

Recreation Director Luna listed some major items from the capital improvement plan that he would like to be done approximately ten years from now including, repainting the Community Center, inspecting the roof, replacing equipment, resurfacing the gym, and replacing the playground at Peavy Dove.

Board member Santin asked if there was anything in the budget or any general funding that is being budgeted for future capital improvements that need to be done and Recreation Director Luna replied that there are still some funds in the budget from the skate park. He believes that Council is putting funds aside on an annual basis for those projects.

b) Summer Program for 2012

Recreation Director Luna commented that the Summer Camp sold out within the first week of registration and all the parents who registered are residents of Miami Springs. Programs Supervisor Patricia Bradley does an amazing job with the Summer Camp. There is an arts and crafts and a dance component within the camp and at the end of the summer there is a talent show for dance and an art gallery show held on the same night.

Recreation Director Luna noted that the program has expanded and he wants to do more activities such as adding a get fit program where the kids will be learning and doing things for their health but they will not know that they are doing it because it will be blended with obstacle course and active games. He said that they will be going on field trips and doing other activities.

Recreation Director Luna mentioned that if a parent is looking for a more specific class such as dancing or Tae Kwon Do, he would recommend them to Holly Bain's Dance Studio on Westward Drive or Ray's Tae Kwon Do on the Circle.

c) 2011-2012 Budgeted Items for Parks and Recreation

Recreation Director Luna explained that not much was budgeted. There were some funds in the repairs and maintenance budget and improvements were gradually being done. He said that the budget was tight last year and he believes that it will be a little tighter this year.

Board member Kondy asked if the fee schedule has helped and Recreation Director Luna responded that it has helped a lot. Revenues are being generated at a decent rate. He explained that the program that develops the most revenue is yoga. The Community Center is over the 18% that they should be at with revenues.

Board member Santin asked if the funds that were not used on the skate park could be utilized for projects that are necessities and to ensure that those funds are spent wisely and Recreation Director Luna replied that the pool lighting is the most important project. Not having enough lighting is a safety issue.

To answer Board member Santin's question, Recreation Director Luna said that the electrician from the City gave him a quote so that they had idea of how much it would cost.

d) Status Update on all City Recreational Programs

Board member Kondy asked if there were any programs or activities for adults and Recreation Director Luna replied that there is a walking club which is free and once a person walks a certain amount of miles they will receive a free water bottle or bracelet. The walking club is going on a field trip to the beach and they will be walking the board walk and will then be treated to lunch after.

Recreation Director Luna stated that there is also a Jazzercise class for adults in the mornings and at night. He noted that there is an aerobics/line dancing class for seniors. There is a new program called story time where a mother and their child would come to the Community Center and a guest reader will read a story. It has been a great success and the parents and kids really enjoy it.

Recreation Director Luna commented that the basketball program is growing. Registration begins this month and there will be a specialized instructional program for teenagers who want to better their skills in basketball. He said that they will register the first 15 teens that sign up and it will be a six week course.

Recreation Director Luna explained that there is a new teen program that has teens volunteering and doing community work. They have gone on field trips to a Heat game, a FIU football game, bowling, and ice skating. It is a program that does not generate any revenue and the teens are a great help.

Board member Santin asked if there was a program that Recreation Director Luna would like to implement but is having trouble starting and Recreation Director Luna responded that he would like to start flag football. There is a challenge with field space and the time frame.

Recreation Director Luna said that he would also like to consider starting a volleyball program but time is needed for it to be programmed correctly. He noted that he is really trying to start an AAU basketball team that would represent the City and will be presenting the proposal to Council this year. He stated that he is trying to find out what it would cost to have an AAU basketball program.

Recreation Director Luna explained that his goal is to hopefully start the AAU basketball program and eventually host the events at the Community Center. It would generate a lot of revenue for the Community Center. He said that he would need the funding for uniforms and hotel stays if he were to start an AAU basketball program.

Board member Santin noted that he would like to see a volleyball program and that the sport is becoming more popular.

Recreation Director Luna said that he gets a lot of people during the open gym for volleyball on Fridays. He would like to start his own program for kids.

5) Other Business: None

6) Adjournment

There was no further business to be discussed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Elora Sakal
Board Secretary

Approved as written during meeting of: 11-13-2012

Words ~~-stricken through-~~ have been deleted. Underscored words represent changes. All other words remain unchanged.

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